

Application No. 09/892,291
Response to OA of 08/30/04

Remarks

In the present response, five claims (1, 12, 13, 20, 21) are amended; and four claims (25, 30, 33, 37) are canceled. Claims 1-9, 12-24, 26-29, 31-32, and 34-36 are presented for examination. Applicant believes that no new matter is entered.

I. Claim Rejections: 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 13-14, 16-17, 20-21, 23-24, 26-29, 31-32, and 34 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Shephard et al. (USPN 5,633,877) in view of Swoboda (USPN 6,704,895).

Claims 4-7, 8, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Shephard in view of Swoboda and Bhavsar (USPN 6,408,401).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Shephard and Swoboda in view of Bossé (USPN 4,586,178).

The rejections are moot. The Office Action indicates that claims 25, 30, 33, and 37 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of these dependent claims are presented in the corresponding independent claims 1, 13, 20, and 21. Further, independent claim 12 is amended to include an allowed limitation.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 25, 30, 33, and 37 are allowable subject to being written in independent form.

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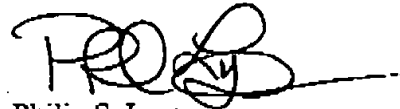
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant believes all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. (281) 514-8236, Facsimile No. (281) 514-8332. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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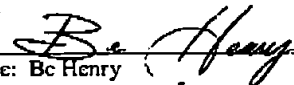
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office number 703-872-9306 on this 29th day of November, 2004.

By 
Name: Bc Henry